

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
ALEXANDRIA DIVISION**

AMAZON.COM and AMAZON DATA SERVICES, INC.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

WDC HOLDINGS LLC dba NORTHSTAR COMMERCIAL PARTNERS, et al.

Defendants.

800 HOYT LLC,

Intervening Interpleader Plaintiff / Intervening Interpleader Counter - Defendant,

v.

BRIAN WATSON; WDC HOLDINGS LLC; BW HOLDINGS, LLC,

Interpleader Defendants,

and

AMAZON.COM, et al.

Interpleader Defendants /
Interpleader Counter-Plaintiffs.

Civil Action No. 1:20-CV-484-RDA-IDD

**MOTION IN LIMINE TO DISALLOW THE IMPUTATION
OF AN ADVERSE INFERENCE**

COME NOW Defendants Brian Watson (“Mr. Watson”); WDC Holdings LLC, dba Northstar Commercial Partners (“Northstar”); Sterling NCP FF, LLC; Manassas NCP FF, LLC; and NSIPI Administrative Manager (collectively, the “Watson Defendants”) file this motion *in limine* respectfully requesting that this Court enter an order disallowing the imputation of an adverse inference to the Watson Defendants. The factors of the established test for allowing an

adverse inference from a third-party weigh strongly against allowing Amazon to secure an adverse inference against the Watson Defendants: none of the Witnesses has a relationship with the Watson Defendants so as to make them loyal to the Watson Defendants; none of the Witnesses was controlled by the Watson Defendants at the time they asserted their Fifth Amendment right; the Witnesses' interests do not align with those of the Watson Defendants; and the Witnesses were not so in control of the underlying developments initiating this litigation that they hold information others cannot provide. Ultimately, there is no admissible evidence to corroborate an inference that any of the Witnesses would confirm the existence of the alleged kick-back scheme if they were not asserting their Fifth Amendment right. Absent this corroboration, any such inference would be wildly speculative and would fail baseline tests for admissibility under Federal Rules of Evidence 402, 403, and 602.

The grounds and reasons upon which the Watson Defendants seek this relief have been stated with particularity in the accompanying brief. A proposed order is submitted herewith.

Dated: March 31, 2023

BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK,
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By: s/ Jeffrey R. Hamlin

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that on 31st day of March, 2023, a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon all parties of record via the ECF system and via email.

/s/Jeffrey R. Hamlin
Jeffrey R. Hamlin